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Adiraju et al.

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(54) **FUNDING CONCURRENT WAGERING GAMES**

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CPC ***G07F 17/3244*** (2013.01); ***G07F 17/3211*** (2013.01); ***G07F 17/3286*** (2013.01)

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See application file for complete search history.

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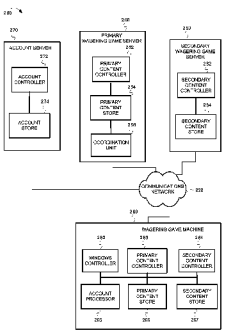
(57) **ABSTRACT**

"Described herein are processes and devices that perform operations that, in some embodiments, include receiving a request for concurrent presentation of a first wagering game and a second wagering game via a display device of a wagering game machine. The first wagering game includes first content that originates from a first content source, and the second wagering game includes second content that originates from a second content source. The operations further include accessing funds associated with the first wagering game. The operations further include funding one or more wagers for the second wagering game using at least a portion of the accessed funds associated with the first wagering game."

25 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



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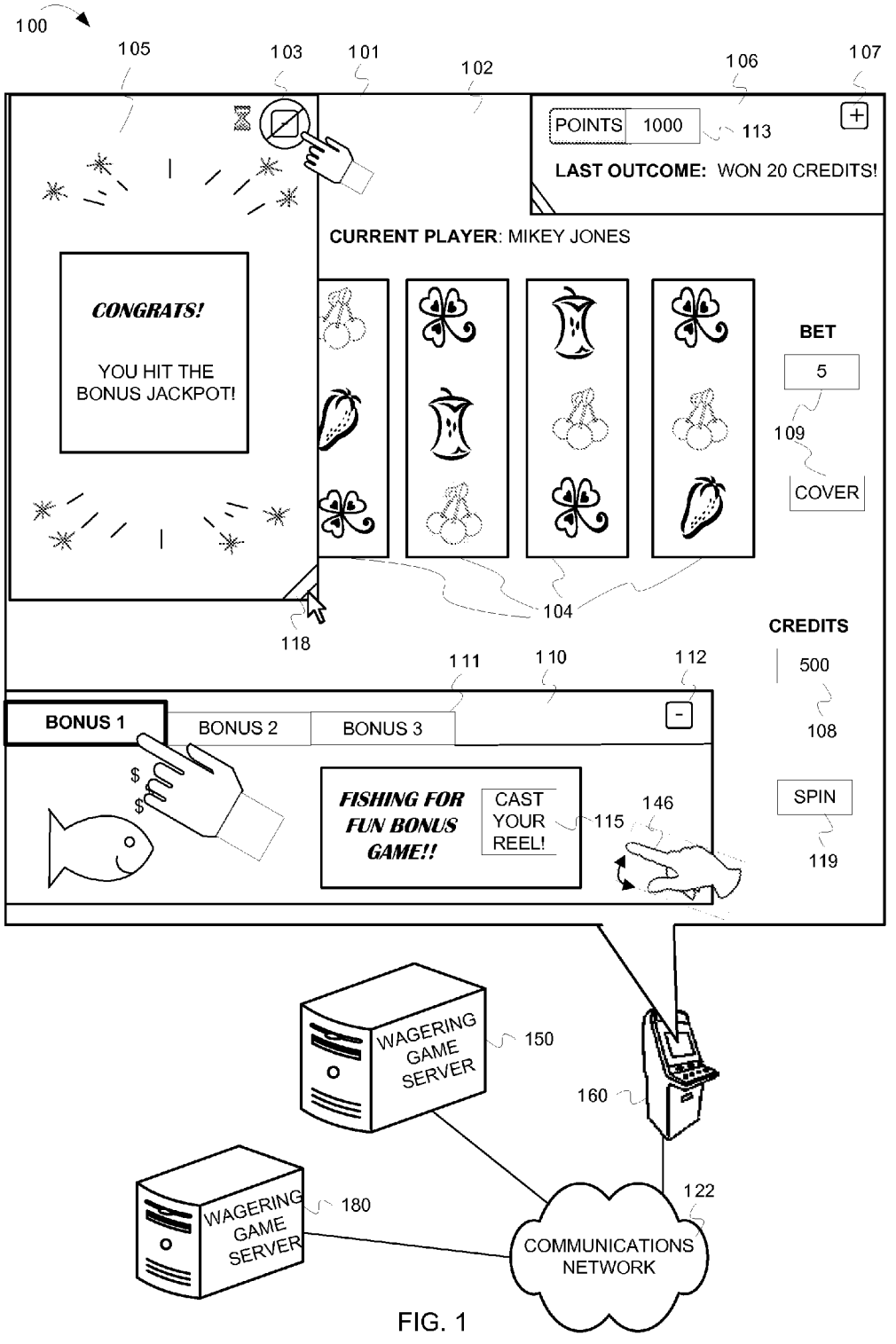
100
105
103
101
102
106
107
POINTS 1000
113
LAST OUTCOME: WON 20 CREDITS!
CURRENT PLAYER: MIKEY JONES
CONGRATS!
YOU HIT THE BONUS JACKPOT!
BET
5
109
COVER
104
118
CREDITS
500
108
111
110
112
BONUS 1
BONUS 2
BONUS 3
FISHING FOR FUN BONUS GAME!!
CAST YOUR REEL!
115
146
SPIN
119
WAGERING GAME SERVER
150
160
WAGERING GAME SERVER
180
122
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

FIG. 1

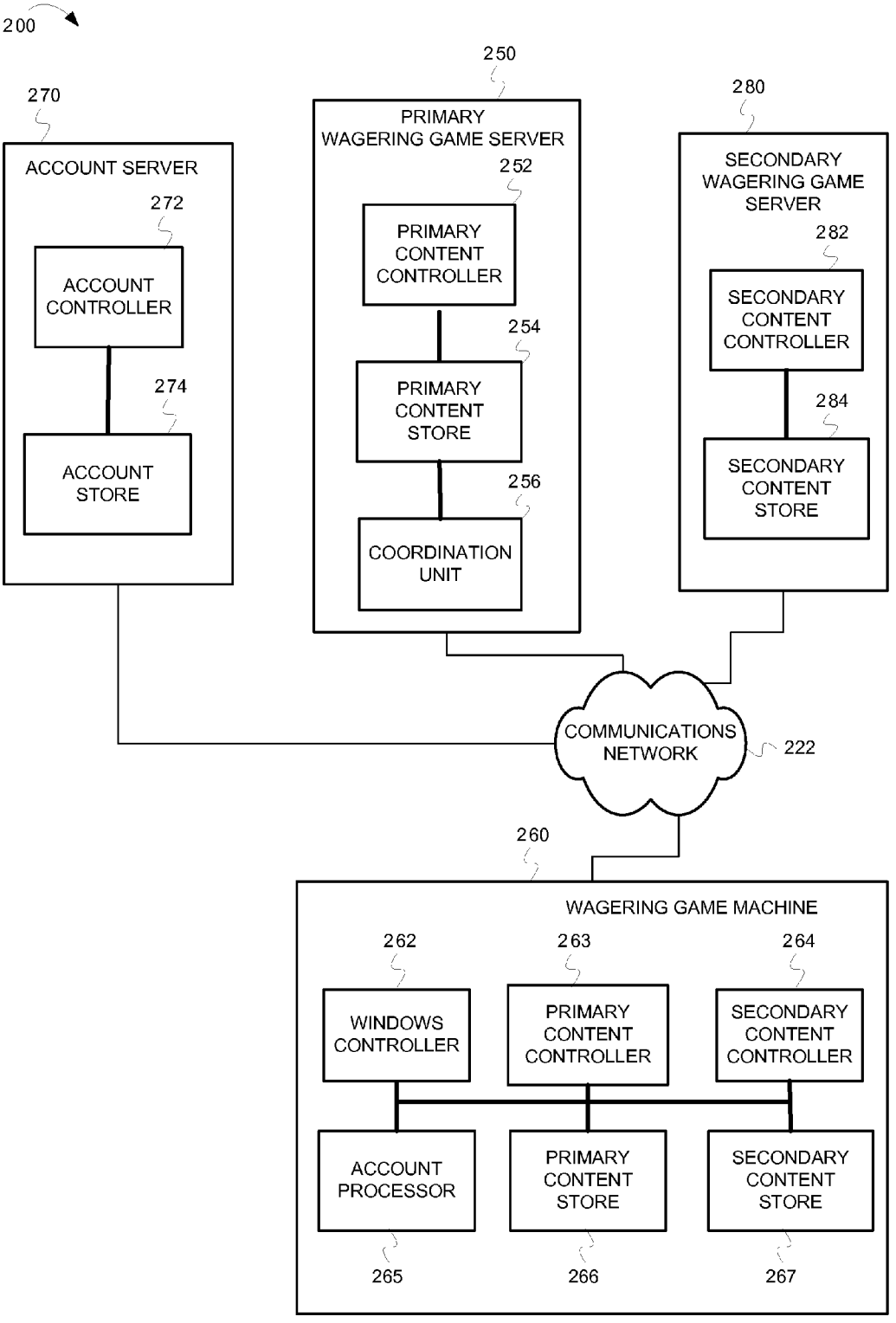
200
250
270
280
PRIMARY WAGERING GAME SERVER
252
ACCOUNT SERVER
272
SECONDARY WAGERING GAME SERVER
282
PRIMARY CONTENT CONTROLLER
ACCOUNT CONTROLLER
SECONDARY CONTENT CONTROLLER
254
274
284
PRIMARY CONTENT STORE
ACCOUNT STORE
SECONDARY CONTENT STORE
256
COORDINATION UNIT
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
222
260
WAGERING GAME MACHINE
262
263
264
WINDOWS CONTROLLER
PRIMARY CONTENT CONTROLLER
SECONDARY CONTENT CONTROLLER
ACCOUNT PROCESSOR
PRIMARY CONTENT STORE
SECONDARY CONTENT STORE
265
266
267

FIG. 2

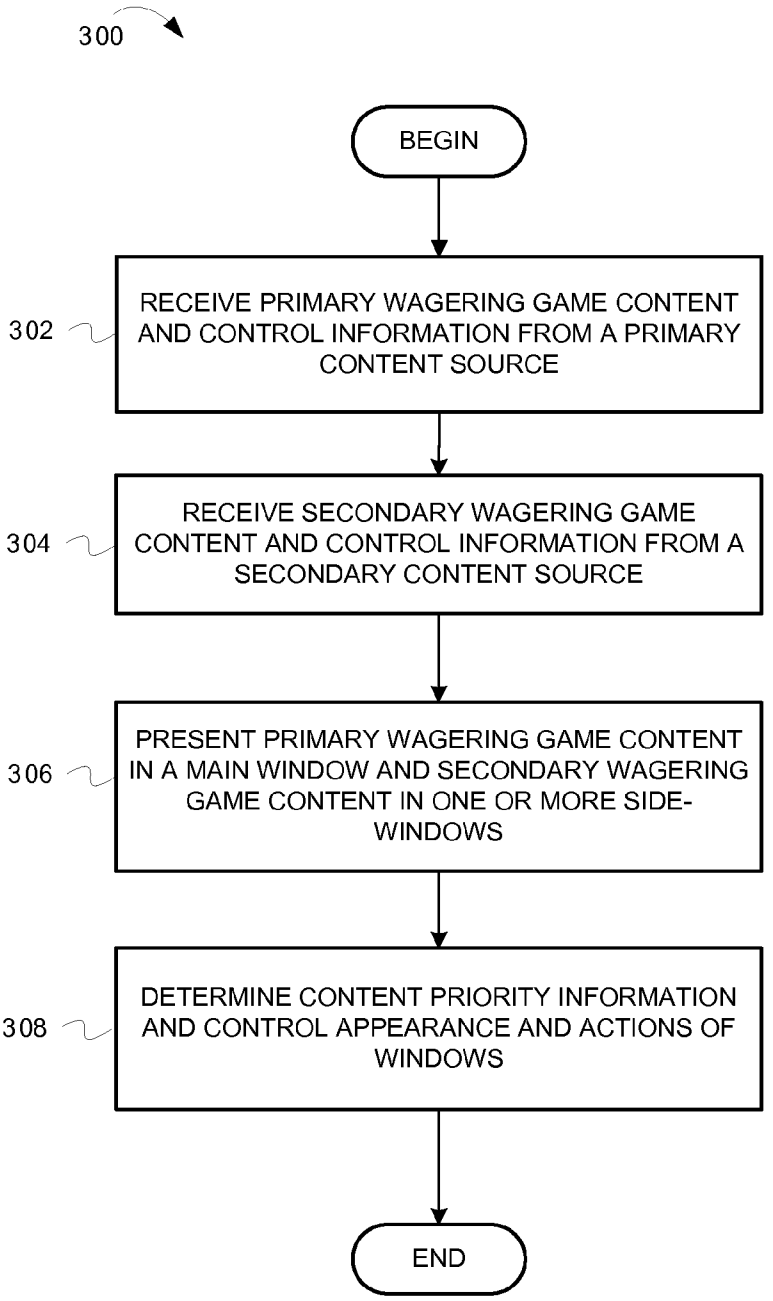
300
BEGIN
302
RECEIVE PRIMARY WAGERING GAME CONTENT AND CONTROL INFORMATION FROM A PRIMARY CONTENT SOURCE
304
RECEIVE SECONDARY WAGERING GAME CONTENT AND CONTROL INFORMATION FROM A SECONDARY CONTENT SOURCE
306
PRESENT PRIMARY WAGERING GAME CONTENT IN A MAIN WINDOW AND SECONDARY WAGERING GAME CONTENT IN ONE OR MORE SIDE-WINDOWS
308
DETERMINE CONTENT PRIORITY INFORMATION AND CONTROL APPEARANCE AND ACTIONS OF WINDOWS
END

FIG. 3

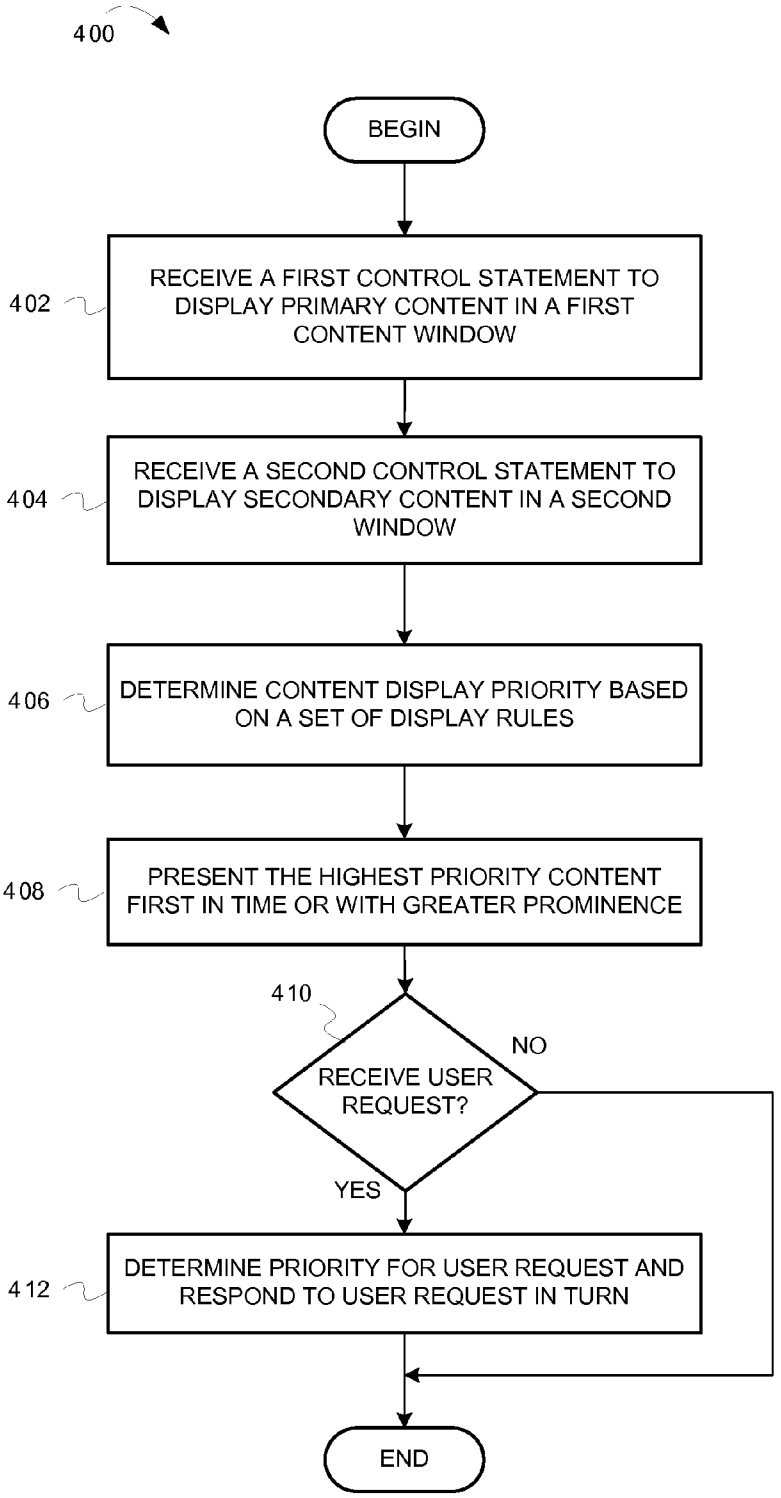
400
BEGIN
402
RECEIVE A FIRST CONTROL STATEMENT TO DISPLAY PRIMARY CONTENT IN A FIRST CONTENT WINDOW
404
RECEIVE A SECOND CONTROL STATEMENT TO DISPLAY SECONDARY CONTENT IN A SECOND WINDOW
406
DETERMINE CONTENT DISPLAY PRIORITY BASED ON A SET OF DISPLAY RULES
408
PRESENT THE HIGHEST PRIORITY CONTENT FIRST IN TIME OR WITH GREATER PROMINENCE
410
RECEIVE USER REQUEST?
NO
YES
412
DETERMINE PRIORITY FOR USER REQUEST AND RESPOND TO USER REQUEST IN TURN
END

FIG. 4

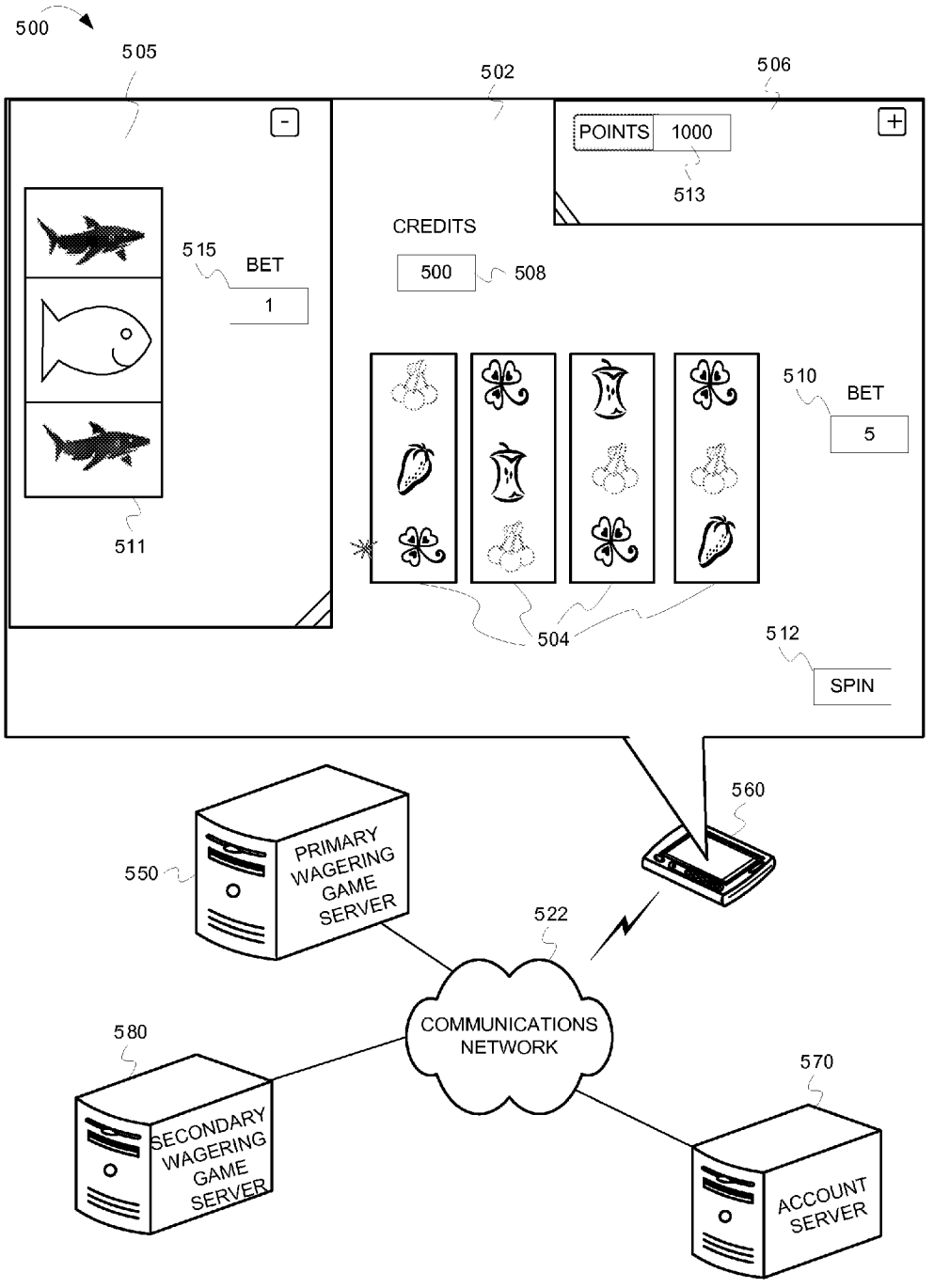
500
505
502
506
POINTS
1000
513
CREDITS
500
508
515
BET
1
511
510
BET
5
504
512
SPIN
560
550
PRIMARY WAGERING GAME SERVER
522
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
580
SECONDARY WAGERING GAME SERVER
570
ACCOUNT SERVER

FIG. 5

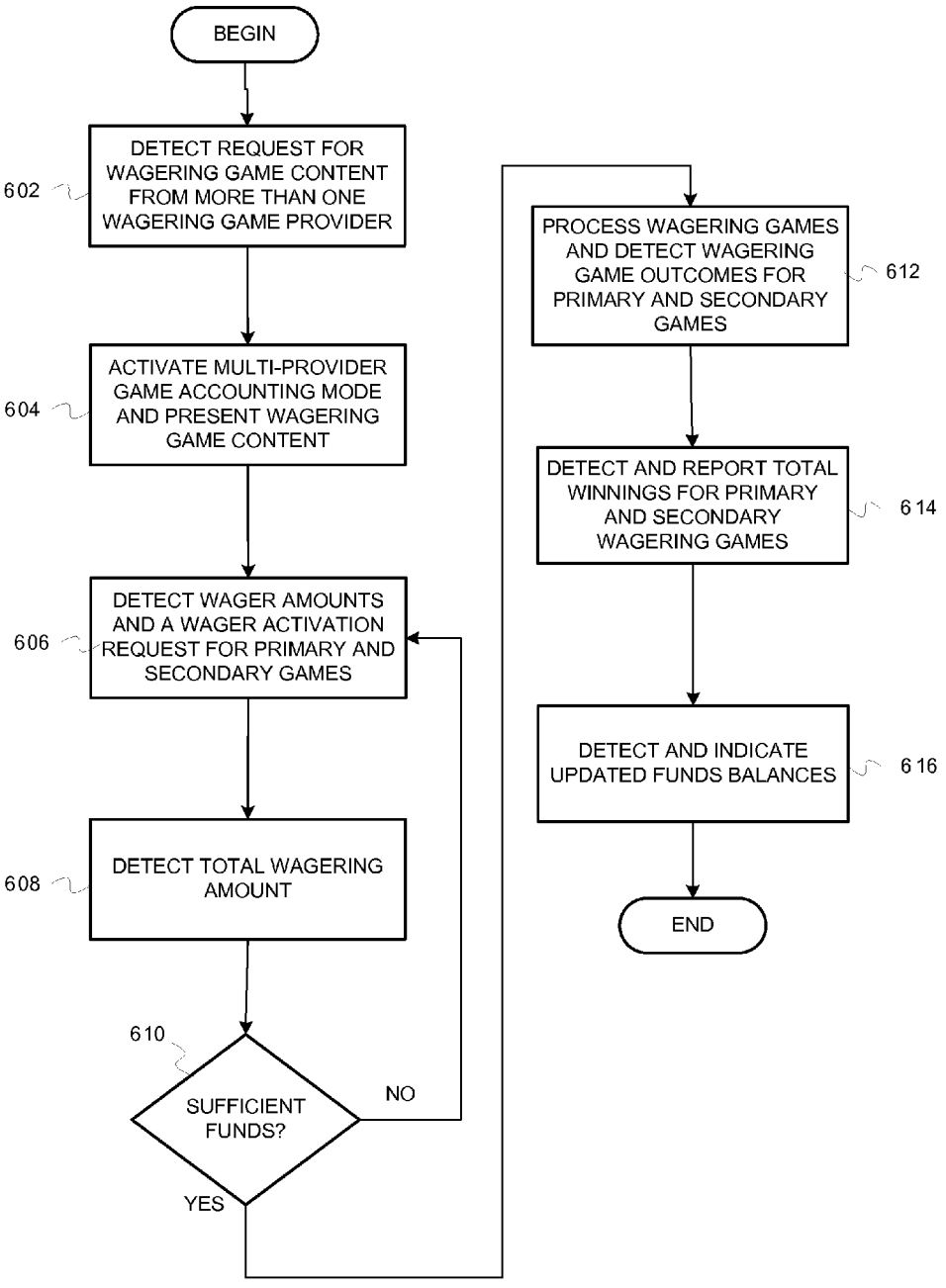
BEGIN
602
DETECT REQUEST FOR WAGERING GAME CONTENT FROM MORE THAN ONE WAGERING GAME PROVIDER
604
ACTIVATE MULTI-PROVIDER GAME ACCOUNTING MODE AND PRESENT WAGERING GAME CONTENT
606
DETECT WAGER AMOUNTS AND A WAGER ACTIVATION REQUEST FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY GAMES
608
DETECT TOTAL WAGERING AMOUNT
610
SUFFICIENT FUNDS?
NO
YES
612
PROCESS WAGERING GAMES AND DETECT WAGERING GAME OUTCOMES FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY GAMES
614
DETECT AND REPORT TOTAL WINNINGS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY WAGERING GAMES
616
DETECT AND INDICATE UPDATED FUNDS BALANCES
END

FIG. 6

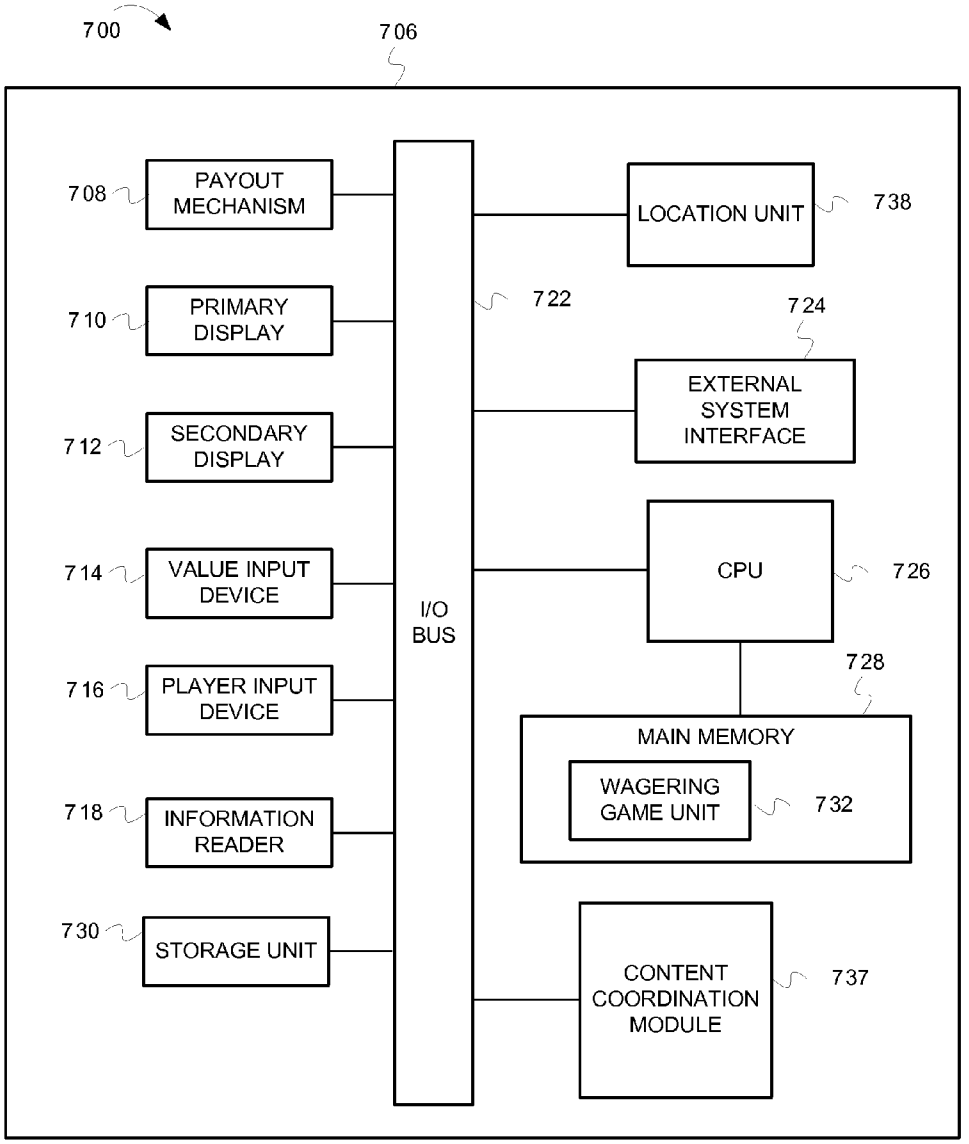
700
706
708
PAYOUT MECHANISM
710
PRIMARY DISPLAY
712
SECONDARY DISPLAY
714
VALUE INPUT DEVICE
716
PLAYER INPUT DEVICE
718
INFORMATION READER
730
STORAGE UNIT
I/O BUS
722
LOCATION UNIT
738
724
EXTERNAL SYSTEM INTERFACE
CPU
726
728
MAIN MEMORY
WAGERING GAME UNIT
732
CONTENT COORDINATION MODULE
737

FIG. 7

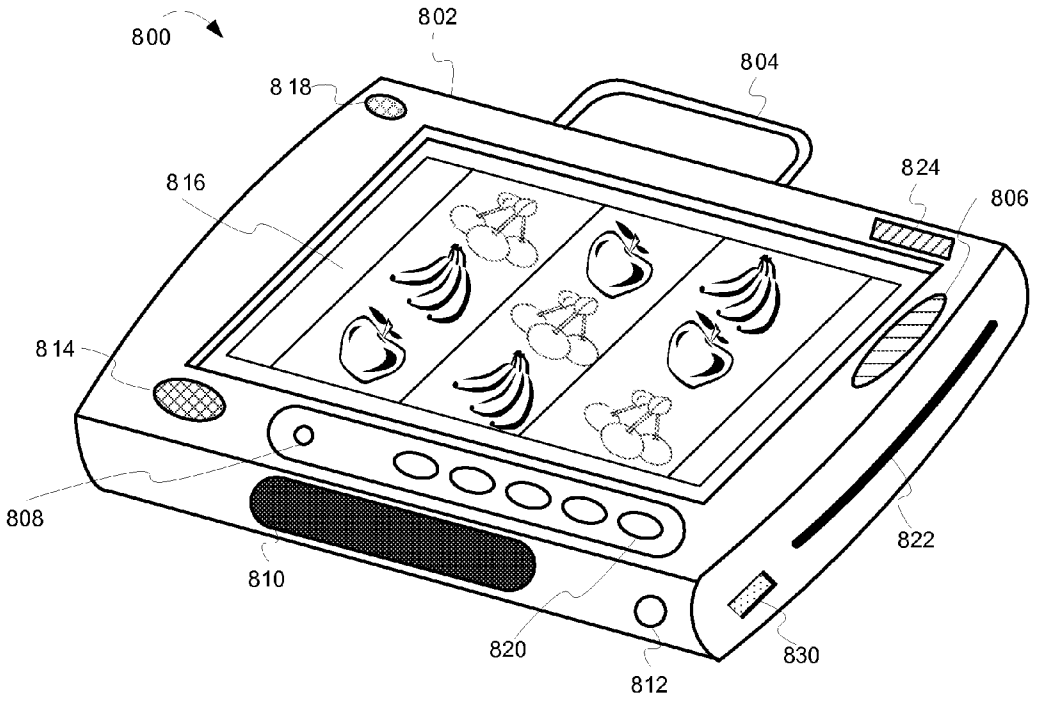

FIG. 8

FUNDING CONCURRENT WAGERING GAMES

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of, and claims priority benefit to, U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/918,179 which is a National Stage Application of PCT/US09/35939 filed on Mar. 3, 2009, which claims the priority benefit of the following applications: U.S. Patent Application No. 61/033,678 filed Mar. 4, 2008; U.S. Patent Application No. 61/036,671 filed Mar. 14, 2008; U.S. Patent Application No. 61/046,912 filed Apr. 22, 2008; and U.S. Patent Application No. 61/054,270 filed May 19, 2008. The Ser. No. 12/918,179 Application, the PCT/US09/35939 Application, the 61/033,678 Application, the 61/036,671 Application, the 61/046,912 Application and the 61/054,270 Application are hereby incorporated by reference.

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TECHNICAL FIELD

Embodiments of the inventive subject matter relate generally to wagering game systems, and more particularly to devices and processes that control wagering transactions for multi-provider game content.

BACKGROUND

Wagering game machines, such as slot machines, video poker machines and the like, have been a cornerstone of the gaming industry for several years. Generally, the popularity of such machines depends on the likelihood (or perceived likelihood) of winning money at the machine and the intrinsic entertainment value of the machine relative to other available gaming options. Where the available gaming options include a number of competing wagering game machines and the expectation of winning at each machine is roughly the same (or believed to be the same), players are likely to be attracted to the most entertaining and exciting machines. Shrewd operators consequently strive to employ the most entertaining and exciting machines, features, and enhancements available because such machines attract frequent play and hence increase profitability to the operator. Therefore, there is a continuing need for wagering game machine manufacturers to continuously develop new games and gaming enhancements that will attract frequent play.

SUMMARY

In some embodiments, a method comprises tracking wagering transactions, for primary wagering game content, using a first funds tracking mode, wherein the primary wagering game content is provided to a wagering game machine by a first wagering game provider; detecting a request to process secondary wagering game content on the wagering game machine, wherein the secondary wagering game content is provided by a second wagering game provider, and wherein the secondary wagering game content uses a second funds tracking mode different from the first funds tracking mode; transitioning the tracking of the wagering transactions for the primary wagering game content from the first funds tracking mode to the second funds tracking mode; and tracking wagering transactions for both the primary wagering game content and the secondary wagering game content using the second funds tracking mode.

In some embodiments, the first wagering game provider is a first wagering game manufacturer store and the secondary wagering game provider is a second wagering game manufacturer store.

In some embodiments, the first funds tracking mode is any one or more of a cash-based funds tracking mode and a ticket-based funds tracking mode, and the second funds tracking mode is an account-based funds tracking mode.

In some embodiments, the transitioning the tracking of the wagering transactions for the primary wagering game content comprises performing, before transitioning into an account-based funds tracking mode, any one or more of transferring funds on the wagering game machine to an account and cashing out funds on the wagering game machine for the primary game.

In some embodiments, the tracking wagering transactions for both the primary wagering game content and the secondary wagering game content uses an account-based funds tracking mode, and wherein the tracking comprises reporting wagers for both the primary wagering game content and the secondary wagering game content to an account server; receiving a verification message from the account server that a player account has sufficient funds to place the wagers; subtracting the wagers from a funds meter on the wagering game machine that tracks an account balance; activating the primary wagering game content and secondary wagering game content; determining wagering game outcomes for both the primary wagering game content and the secondary wagering game content; and adding win amounts from any one or more of the primary wagering game content and the secondary wagering game content to the funds meter on the wagering game machine.

In some embodiments, the tracking wagering transactions for both the primary wagering game content and the secondary wagering game content comprises: storing a plurality of wagering transactions for both the primary wagering game content and the secondary wagering game content on the wagering game machine for a plurality of game plays; and reconciling the plurality of wagering transactions with an account server to update a player account balance after the plurality of game plays.

In some embodiments, one or more machine-readable media having instructions stored thereon, which when executed by a set of one or more processors causes the set of one or more processors to perform operations comprises detecting a request to process a plurality of wagering games from multiple wagering game providers on a wagering game machine during a single wagering game session; communicating wagering transactions for the plurality of wagering games to a wagering game player account stored on an account server; and synchronizing a session funds balance on the wagering game machine with an account balance for the wagering game player account.

In some embodiments, the communicating and synchronizing comprises communicating the wagering transactions for the plurality of wagering games to the account server after every wagering game outcome during the wagering game session; and restricting wagering game play on the

wagering game machine until the session funds balance and the account balance are synchronized after every wagering game outcome.

In some embodiments, the communicating and coordinating comprises communicating the wagering transactions for the plurality of wagering games to the account server after every wager and after every wagering game outcome during the wagering game session; and restricting wagering game play on the wagering game machine until the session funds balance and the account balance are synchronized after every wager and wagering game outcome.

In some embodiments, the communicating and coordinating comprises storing a plurality of wagering transactions on the wagering game server for a plurality of wagers and wagering game outcomes; communicating the plurality of wagering transactions as a single communication to the account server; and restricting wagering game play until the session funds balance and the account balance are synchronized.

In some embodiments, the machine-readable media further comprises detecting a long running wagering game, initiated during the wagering game session, that continues to run after the wagering game session has ended; detecting a wagering game outcome for the long running game; and updating the account balance with any winning amounts generated from the wagering game outcome.

In some embodiments, a system comprises a primary wagering game server configured to provide primary wagering game content; a secondary wagering game server configured to provide secondary wagering game content; a wagering game machine configured to simultaneously process a first wagering game using the primary wagering game content and a second wagering game using the secondary wagering game content; and an account server configured to track wagering account information related to both the first wagering game and the second wagering game.

In some embodiments, the primary wagering game server is configured to serve wagering games created by a first wagering game manufacturer and the second wagering game server is configured to serve wagering games created by a second wagering game manufacturer.

In some embodiments, the system further comprises a coordination unit configured to synchronize a wagering game session balance on the wagering game machine with a wagering player account balance on the account server during a wagering game session for both the first wagering game and the second wagering game.

In some embodiments, the coordination unit is further configured to determine one or more synchronization modes for synchronizing the wagering game session balance and the wagering player account balance depending on any one or more of communication network bandwidth, player account preferences, system configuration settings, wagering game durations, and synchronization control rules.

In some embodiments, the system further comprises utilizing more than one synchronization mode during the wagering game session.

In some embodiments, the wagering game machine comprises any one or more of meters and controls to control wagering activity for both the first wagering game and the second wagering game.

In some embodiments, an apparatus comprises an account controller to control wagering transactions on a wagering game network; an account store to store financial account information related to a wagering game player account; and an account processor configured to receive wagering transaction values for a plurality of wagering games during a wagering game session, wherein the plurality of wagering games originate from multiple wagering game providers and are processed on a single wagering game machine; update a player account balance using the wagering transaction values for the plurality of wagering games, and generate a verification message to send to the wagering game machine to indicate that the player account balance is updated.

In some embodiments, the account processor is further configured to determine one or more synchronization modes for synchronizing the player account balance with a wagering game session balance on the wagering game machine based on synchronization control rules, wherein the synchronization control rules indicate a timing schedule for synchronizing the player account balance.

In some embodiments, the apparatus further comprises a content controller configured to provide control information for controlling the presentation of wagering game content for the plurality of wagering games, wherein the content controller is configured to generate control information to restrict presentation of the wagering game content until the account processor generates the verification message.

In some embodiments, the account processor is further configured to provide access to a social network account, and communicate social network account information generated while processing any one or more of the primary wagering game content and the secondary wagering game content.

In some embodiments, an apparatus comprises means for receiving primary wagering game content from a first wagering game provider; means for receiving secondary wagering game content from a second wagering game provider; means for detecting a wager amount for both the primary wagering game content and the secondary wagering game content; means for restricting game play until the wager amount can be verified with an account server; means for reporting the wager amount to the account server; means receiving a first verification message from the account server that a player account has a sufficient balance to transact the wager amount; means for subtracting the wager amount from a funds meter on the wagering game machine that tracks a wagering game session balance; and means for unrestricting game play.

In some embodiments, the apparatus further comprises means for determining wagering game outcomes for both the primary wagering game content and the secondary wagering game content; means for adding win amounts to the funds meter on the wagering game machine; means for reporting the win amounts to the account server; and means for receiving a second verification message from the account server that the account balance has been updated on the account server.

In some embodiments, the means for receiving the primary wagering game content and the secondary wagering game content comprises means for transitioning a cash-based funds tracking mode for the primary wagering game content to an account-based funds tracking mode; and means for tracking both the primary wagering game content and the secondary wagering game content using the account-based funds tracking mode.

In some embodiments, unrestricting game play comprises: means for activating the primary wagering game content and secondary wagering game content simultaneously with a single activation instruction.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING(S)

Embodiments are illustrated in the Figures of the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. **1** is an illustration of presenting wagering game content in multiple windows on a wagering game machine, according to some embodiments;

FIG. **2** is an illustration of a wagering game system architecture **200**, according to some embodiments;

FIG. **3** is a flow diagram **300** illustrating presenting wagering game content from multiple wagering game content sources, according to some embodiments;

FIG. **4** is a flow diagram **400** illustrating coordinating the presentation of windows on a wagering game machine, according to some embodiments;

FIG. **5** is an illustration of coordinating account information between multiple content sources, according to some embodiments;

FIG. **6** is a flow diagram **600** illustrating coordinating account-based information for primary and secondary wagering games, according to some embodiments;

FIG. **7** is an illustration of a wagering game machine architecture **600**, according to some embodiments; and

FIG. **8** is an illustration of a mobile wagering game machine **700**, according to some embodiments.

DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

This description of the embodiments is divided into five sections. The first section provides an introduction to embodiments. The second section describes example operating environments while the third section describes example operations performed by some embodiments. The fourth section describes additional example operating environments, while the fifth section presents some general comments.

Introduction

This section provides an introduction to some embodiments.

Casinos, and other similar wagering game networks, provide a multitude of wagering games. These wagering games are created by different wagering game content providers and manufacturers, and are stored on separate gaming machines configured to process and present games from only that provider. When a player wants to play one of the games, the player has to find a specific machine within the casino that contains that wagering game. Some content providers, however, have recognized that a player may want to play more than one specific wagering game, and have thus created wagering game machines that can process and display multiple different wagering games themes and types from a single provider. Sometimes, however, a player may want to play a wagering game from more than one wagering game content provider or manufacturer. To do so, however, the player has to log in to, and out of, separate wagering game machines on a casino floor which are controlled by the different content providers. FIG. **1** shows a wagering game system **100** that can process multiple wagering games, from multiple content providers, on a single wagering game machine **160**.

FIG. **1** is a conceptual diagram that illustrates an example of presenting wagering game content in multiple windows on a wagering game machine, according to some embodiments. In FIG. **1**, a wagering game system ("system") **100** obtains wagering game content and control information, via a communications network **122**, from multiple content sources (e.g., different servers **150** and **180**, different content providers, different manufacturers, etc.). The system **100** can present the content from the multiple content sources in single display **101** on a wagering game machine **160**. The system **100** can utilize multiple windows to display the content, such as a main window **102** to display content (e.g., slot reels **104**) from a first content source as well as controls and meters **109** that relate to the content provided in the main window **102**. The system **100** can utilize one or more "auxiliary windows", or "side-windows" **105**, **106**, **110**, to present content from a second content source, along with some controls (e.g., button **115**) and/or meters that may relate to the content in the side-bar windows **105**, **106**, **110**. Further, the system can present some meters (e.g., the credit meter **108** and the point meter **113**) and/or controls (e.g., the spin button **119**), that may relate to activities that occur in all of the windows. Because the content in the main window **102** can come from a first content source, the content in the main window **102** may be referred to herein as "first-source" or "primary", content. The first content source may be referred to herein as a "primary" content source, or "primary" provider. Further, because the content in the side-windows **105**, **106**, **110** can come from a second content source, the content in the side-windows **105**, **105**, **110**, may be referred to herein as "second-source" or "secondary", content. The second content source may be referred to as a "secondary" content source or a "secondary" provider. The terms "primary" and "secondary" distinguish the differences in the origin of the content, but not necessarily the importance or priority of the content.

The system **100** can determine how windows appear, expand, collapse, react to input, etc. The system **100** can intelligently determine an amount of available content to be displayed in a window, then automatically size, or resize, that window to present the amount of content. The system **100** determines the priority of primary content and secondary content in relation to each other. For example, the content of most importance, (e.g., a win notification) can get the highest priority and can be displayed first-in-time, or with greater significance (e.g., the system **100** may determine that a high priority window resizes and covers other lower priority windows, partially or fully, etc.). The side-windows **105**, **106**, **110** can have controls (e.g., collapse/minimize buttons, expand/maximize buttons, close/exit buttons, handles, scroll bars, resize-able frames, zoom, etc.) that a user can use to resize, move, or otherwise react with a window. For example, the side-windows **105**, **106**, **110** can have handles **118** to move the windows around. The frames of the side-windows **105**, **106**, **110** can be sizable. Further, the side-windows **105**, **106**, **110** can have control buttons **103**, **107**, **112** that collapse and expand the side-windows **105**, **106**, **110**, respectively. The system **100** can prioritize a user's request to manipulate windows and respond to the request according to the importance and priority of the request. The system **100** can also deactivate certain functions based on priority and timing. For instance, the system **100** can prevent a window from being collapsed while a high priority activity occurs. For example, side-window **105** is displaying a celebratory animation of a jackpot win. As a result, the control button **103** is deactivated for the duration of the celebratory display so that a user cannot collapse the screen while the celebratory animation plays.

In some embodiments, the main window **102** and the side-windows **105**, **106**, **110**, can present information using different technologies, file formats, etc. For instance, the

wagering game machine **160** can present the primary content in the main window **102** using various complex game assets and configuration files stored on, or delivered to, the wagering game machine **160** when the wagering game machine **160** was configured by a first content provider (e.g. a manufacturer for the wagering game machine **160**). The wagering game machine **160** can store and utilize the data, logic, game assets, etc., to present the primary content in a complex way (e.g., high-resolution, textured graphics, three-dimensional objects, etc.) and/or that may provide complex functionality that heavily utilizes the resources on the wagering game machine **160**. Thus, the wagering game machine **160** can provide greater functionality in conjunction with the main window **102** and the primary content. However, the secondary content may come from a second content provider (e.g. a second manufacturer) that may not have access to all of the resources on the wagering game machine **160**, or the wagering game network, that the primary content has access to. Consequently, the second manufacturer may create and/or provide (e.g., push the content from the wagering game server **180**) the secondary content using technologies that can optimizes less complex data and programming, that can generate easily transportable files, that can quickly and efficiently push and pull data over a network, and that can unitize the secondary content into one, or very few, files. Examples of such technologies include, but are not limited to, Adobe™ Flash™ applications, Java Applets, streaming video and audio, Asynchronous Flash Applications, dynamic web technologies (e.g., XML, AJAX), etc. By utilizing these types of technologies, the second content provider can also better protect the secondary content by allowing the second content provider to store the secondary content on its own servers and push the secondary content to the side-windows. Thus, the secondary content provider may avoid having to store game assets on the wagering game machine **160**, or other network servers, which may belong to, or be accessed by, competitors. Thus, in some embodiments, the side-windows **110** are configured to process different types of game content, in different files formats or using different technologies, than the main window **102**.

Side-window **110** is an example of a side-window with tabbed sub-windows ("tabs") **111**. Tabs **111** help to break up different types of content. The tabs **111** can show different game types, themes, denominations, etc. The tabs **111** can show content from one secondary content provider, or from multiple secondary content providers. In some embodiments, the side-window **110**, and/or tabs **111**, can display an "attract" (e.g., advertisement or other attractive animations). The system **100** can cycle through the windows and/or tabs to display the attracts. The wagering game machine **160** can have touch sensitive capabilities so that a user can select the different tabs **111**, manipulate the control buttons, etc.

According to some embodiments, the wagering game system **100** can include numerous capabilities and configurations. The following non-exhaustive list enumerates some example capabilities and configurations:

- The system **100** can make the side-windows **105**, **106**, **110** viewable, and display secondary game animations in the side-windows **105**, **106**, **110**, while the primary game is being played.
- The system **100** can make only one window "active" at a time. Audio and video content of the active window can take precedence over other window's content. The system **100** can also present a single "active" tab at a time. Other tabs and windows may process data in the background, however, even when they aren't active.
- The system **100** can utilize the tabs **111** to present different types of content, such as control content, game content, game information, etc., related to a single game, or to different games. For example, two tabs could show content for two different games, whereas a third tab could provide audio controls to determine which audio is played for which game, how loud, etc.
- The system **100** can prioritize the display of the game content within windows. For example, if two games are won at the same time, then the system **100** can first present a celebratory display of the game with the higher win value, and then present the other celebratory display.
- The system **100** can support patron input through a touch screen, a mouse-pointer, a text-box, a dynamic image and/or buttons, etc. The type of patron interaction can be determined by the content being displayed.
- The system **100** can automatically deactivate (e.g., resize, close, collapse, etc.) a window after a specified period of time. For example, if the window does not receive a user response within the specified period of time, the window can time out, and deactivate. In some examples, the system **100** can detect a set duration for content to display and then deactivate the window after the set duration. For instance, the system **100** can time the duration of a celebratory display and automatically close, or collapse, a window after a set amount of time.
- The system **100** can display windows from different locations on the display (e.g., top, sides, and bottom). The system **100** can cause a window to open, close, resize, etc. in different directions (e.g., up, down, left, right, diagonal).
- The system **100** can present side-windows on a top-box device, on a peripheral device, etc.
- The side-windows **105**, **106**, **110** can have the same functionality as each other, with controls, tabs, etc. In other embodiments, however, some windows may be different than others.
- The system **100** can create content that is displayed in a window and can control how that content operates. For instance, the system **100** can create custom jackpot celebrations and other custom animations for a specific window, based on a specific game theme, player, etc.
- The system **100** can determine any windows that are showing information that should remain in view and adjust the windows position, size, or the content within the windows, if necessary, so that the important content remains constantly viewable. For example, if a user presses a "help" button inside of a side-window, the system **100** can resize the side-window to display help text and graphics. The system **100** can scale the frame size of a window, to show more or less content. In other words, when a window is made smaller, fewer words, images, etc. might be shown. On the other hand, system **100** can scale the content in the window to grow, or shrink, as the window frame is resized.
- The system **100** can change the frame, borders, background, etc., of a window with different themes. The themes can be set by, and indicate, a content provider.
- The system **100** can respond to complex finger movements (e.g., finger strokes, pinches, reverse pinches, etc.) to emulate the same actions that the control elements perform. For example, the hand **146** illustrates a pinching movement that could zoom in and out of the side-window **110**.

The system **100** can manipulate (e.g., close, open, move, etc.) multiple windows at once, and also provide control elements that permit a user to do the same.

The system **100** can summarize any critical information from multiple windows and/or tabs into a small portion of an active window. Thus, the system **100** can present mandatory information, as determined by a content provider, within a minimally intrusive, but continuously viewable window.

The system **100** can minimize a side-window during a spin. The system **100**, still present critical data on the minimized display of the side-window, for example, to report the results of the spin.

The system **100** can detect when specific modes occur in different windows and accordingly control the content of other windows. For example, the system **100** can detect when a window activates an attract mode. The system **100** can cycle the attract sequence through some, or all, windows and/or tabs. For example, the system **100** can activate an attract mode on the main window **102**, then activate an attract mode in the side-window **105**, and so on through side-windows **106**, **110**, until returning back to the main window **102**. This also works with the tabs **111**. The system **100** can show attract animations as well as other casino controlled content while in attract mode. The system **100** can have a configuration controller that can be used to set the times to show the attract modes.

The system **100** can also cause attract modes, and other modes (e.g., game modes, help modes, casino-service modes, etc.) to operate at the same time. For example, the main window **102** can operate in a game mode under, or behind, the side-window **105**, while the side-window **105** operates in a celebratory mode.

The system **100** can support user input, if appropriate, for the content being displayed. For examples, the system **100** can detect when a patron interacts with casino services or account entry information.

The system **100** can control whether a secondary content window overlays or scales a main content window.

The system **100** can elevate a priority, or importance, of content being displayed within any of the windows. For example, the system **100** can force a window above other windows, present a message or warning in the window, cause enhanced window activity, etc., to bring the window to a patron's attention if there is information in the window that the user needs to be aware of

The system **100** can intercommunicate between windows to communicate game and account information (e.g., wagers, spins, game outcomes, credits, etc.)

The system **100** can determine restrictions on a window, such as when a window can be selected, when a window should be grayed out, when a window should be replaced with a non-selectable animation, etc.

The system **100** can determine denominations, user languages, etc. of game content from other providers, manufacturers, etc.

The system **100** can interact with servers from different providers to obtain control logic and content. The system **100** can include content on the same servers and treat the content differently according to different rules.

The system **100** can control game activity in all windows, interact with all games, etc.

The system **100** can run on a wagering game machine, on a server, or any combination.

The system **100** can delegate control capabilities to primary game content so that the primary game content can control one or more secondary content games.

Although FIG. **1** describes some embodiments, the following sections describe many other features and embodiments.

Example Operating Environments

This section describes example operating environments and networks and presents structural aspects of some embodiments. More specifically, this section includes discussion about wagering game system architectures.

Example Wagering Game System Architecture

FIG. **2** is a conceptual diagram that illustrates an example of a wagering game system architecture **200**, according to some embodiments. The wagering game system architecture **200** can include a primary wagering game server **250** configured to control primary wagering game content and communicate wagering game information, account information, and/or content coordination information to and from a wagering game machine **260**. The primary wagering game server **250** can include a primary content controller **252** configured to manage and control primary content and presentation of primary content on the wagering game machine **260**. The primary wagering game server **250** also can include a primary content store **254** configured to contain primary content to present on the wagering game machine **260**. The primary wagering game server **250** also can include a coordination unit **256** configured to coordinate communications and control information between multiple content sources and account servers.

The wagering game system architecture **200** also can include a secondary wagering game server **280** configured to control secondary wagering game content and communicate wagering game information and/or account information to and from the wagering game machine **260**. The secondary wagering game server **280** can include a secondary content controller **282** configured to manage and control secondary content and presentation of secondary content on the wagering game machine **260**. The secondary wagering game server **280** also can include a secondary content store **284** configured to contain secondary content to present on the wagering game machine **260**.

The wagering game system architecture **200** also can include an account server **270** configured to process financial transactions and control user related accounts accessible via wagering game networks and social networks. The account server **270** can store and track player information, such as identifying information (e.g., avatars, screen name, account identification numbers, etc.) or other information like financial account information, social contact information, etc. The account server **270** can contain accounts for social contacts referenced by the player account. The account server **270** can also provide auditing capabilities, according to regulatory rules, and track the performance of player's, machines, and servers. The account server **270** can include an account controller **272** configured to control information for a player's account. The account server **270** also can include an account store **274** configured to store information for a player's account.

The wagering game system architecture **200** also can include a wagering game machine **260** configured to present wagering game content, to receive and transmit information between various content sources and account servers, and to

coordinate the presentation of the wagering game content in multiple windows within a graphical user interface on the wagering game machine **260**. The wagering game machine **260** can include a windows controller **262** configured to coordinate the positioning, controls, actions, and timing of windows. The windows controller **262** can determine the priority of content and generate instructions that will control windows according to the priority of the content. The windows controller **262** also can communicate between windows, such as to determine wager amounts, account credit amounts, point amounts, etc. The windows controller **262** can also detect, and coordinate, the presentation of attract mode content. The wagering game machine **260** also can include a primary content controller **263** configured to manage and control primary content and presentation of primary content on the wagering game machine **260**. For example, the primary content controller **263** controls how the primary content appears and acts within a main window. The wagering game machine **260** also can include a primary content store **266** configured to store primary content. The wagering game machine **260** also can include a secondary content controller **264** configured to manage and control secondary content and presentation of secondary content on the wagering game machine **260**. For example, the secondary content controller **264** controls how the secondary content appears and acts within a side-window. The wagering game machine **260** also can include a secondary content store **267** configured to store secondary content. The wagering game machine **260** also can include an account processor **265** configured to control and communicate account information (e.g., financial transactions, player tracking information, etc.).

Each component shown in the wagering game system architecture **200** is shown as a separate and distinct element. However, some functions performed by one component could be performed by other components. For example, the coordination unit **256** can control windows and/or presentation of content, as necessary, to ensure a proper coordination of data. The coordination unit **256** may be in a separate device, or in one of the other devices shown. Furthermore, the components shown may all be contained in one device, but some, or all, may be included in, or performed by multiple devices on the systems and networks **222**, as in the configurations shown in FIG. **2** or other configurations not shown. For example, in some embodiments, all content may be served from one machine or device, within a casino network, and/or be stored on the same storage device. The content can be stored on the one device with metadata that describes the provider for the content. The one device can have separate content controllers to exclusively control content from a single provider. The system can access the content, read the metadata, and determine from which provider the content originates so that it knows how to create control data (e.g., information/instructions that control the movement and action of a window, on the wagering game machine, in relation to the window's content.)

Furthermore, the wagering game system architecture **200** can be implemented as software, hardware, any combination thereof, or other forms of embodiments not listed. For example, any of the network components (e.g., the wagering game machines, servers, etc.) can include hardware and machine-readable media including instructions for performing the operations described herein. Machine-readable media includes any mechanism that provides (i.e., stores and/or transmits) information in a form readable by a machine (e.g., a wagering game machine, computer, etc.). For example, tangible machine-readable media includes read only memory (ROM), random access memory (RAM), magnetic disk storage media, optical storage media, flash memory machines, etc. Machine-readable media also includes any media suitable for transmitting software over a network. Furthermore, any of the components can be integrated or divided.

Example Operations

This section describes operations associated with some embodiments. In the discussion below, some flow diagrams are described with reference to block diagrams presented herein. However, in some embodiments, the operations can be performed by logic not described in the block diagrams.

In certain embodiments, the operations can be performed by executing instructions residing on machine-readable media (e.g., software), while in other embodiments, the operations can be performed by hardware and/or other logic (e.g., firmware). In some embodiments, the operations can be performed in series, while in other embodiments, one or more of the operations can be performed in parallel. Moreover, some embodiments can perform more or less than all the operations shown in any flow diagram.

FIG. **3** is a flow diagram illustrating operations for presenting wagering game content from multiple wagering game content sources, according to some embodiments. In FIG. **3**, the flow **300** begins at processing block **302**, where a wagering game system ("system") receives primary wagering game content and control information from a primary content source.

The flow **300** continues at processing block **304**, where the system receives secondary wagering game content and control information from a secondary content source. The secondary content source can push the secondary content, such as an Adobe Flash application, to a wagering game machine.

The flow **300** continues at processing block **306**, where the system presents primary wagering game content in a main window and secondary wagering game content in one or more side-windows. The system can present the primary content and the secondary content simultaneously in their respective windows. The system can also control and present the primary and secondary content within their respective windows so that the content is mutually exclusive of eachother, or in other words, so that the content in each window does not have to affect the content in any other window.

The flow **300** continues at processing block **308**, where the system determines content priority information and controls the appearance and actions of windows based on the content priority information. The system can detect activity occurring in each window, and can determine the importance of that activity. Based on the importance of that activity, the system can determine which activity has the highest priority, and generate one or more priority commands to control how the window reacts to other windows or user requests. Based on the priority commands, the system can control the appearance and actions of the windows.

FIG. **4** is a flow diagram illustrating operations for coordinating the presentation of windows on a wagering game machine, according to some embodiments. In FIG. **4**, the flow **400** begins at processing block **402**, where a wagering game system ("system") receives a first control statement to display primary content in a first content window.

The flow **400** continues at processing block **404**, where the system receives a second control statement to display secondary content in a second window. The first and second

control statements can be generated by two different servers from two different content providers.

The flow **400** continues at processing block **406**, where the system determines a content display priority for both the primary and secondary content based on a set of display rules. For instance, the system can store a set of rules based on the system's configuration settings, which control how content is displayed.

The flow **400** continues at processing block **408**, where the system presents the highest priority content first in time or with greater prominence. For example, the system may detect a slot reel spin from a first game in a first window and a slot reel spin from a second game in a second window. The first game may complete its spin before the spin in the second window. If the first game in the first window results in a win, and the second game in the second screen does not, the system may determine, according to a hierarchy of rules, that a celebratory screen of a win is a high priority event, and must be displayed immediately, and with greater prominence, than a non-win presentation. As a result, the system may raise the first window above any other windows, run celebratory animations in the first window, increase lighting and/or contrast in the first window, etc. On the other hand, if the second game in the second window also wins at the same time that the first game in the first window wins, the system may determine which win resulted in a greater amount. The system can determine that the win with the greater amount is more important and, consequently, has a higher priority. As a result, the system can display a celebratory screen for the game with the highest win amount and hold in stasis the second celebratory screen until the first one is complete. Priority rules can take into consideration multiple factors, including, but not limited to, wins/loss information, credit information, meter information, user account information, hardware resources, advertising schedules, environmental variables, etc. Different content providers can determine their own set of rules. A coordination unit, in a central server, however, may reconcile the rules between various providers, and provide control information to the wagering game machine to prevent conflicts. Further, the system can provide a consistent set of rules, or protocol, to which all content providers can adhere.

The flow **400** continues at processing block **410**, where the system receives a user request to manipulate a window or to interact with content displayed within a window. If the system receives a user request, then the flow continues at block **412**.

The flow **400** continues at processing block **412**, where the system determines a priority for the user request and responds to the user request according its priority. For example, a user may request to close a window. The system, however, has to determine whether the activity that is occurring within the window is more important that the user's request. For instance, the window may be presenting a reel spin, or another similar type of active game activity. As a result the system may determine that the reel spin must occur, and be presented, before the window can be closed. Alternatively, the system can plan for priority activities, such as by deactivating certain control options before processing a high priority command. For example, before conducting a wheel spin, the system can deactivate the control button that closes a window.

Additional Example Operating Environments

This section describes example operating environments, systems and networks, and presents structural aspects of some embodiments.

Coordinating Account Information in a Multiple-Content-Source Wagering Game Session

FIG. **5** is a conceptual diagram that illustrates an example of coordinating account information between multiple content sources, according to some embodiments. In FIG. **5**, an account-based wagering system ("system") **500** maintains a player wagering account on at least one account server **570**. In some embodiments, more than one account server (e.g., a primary account server and secondary account server) can track more than one account, or more than one account can be tracked on a single account server **570**. However, the account server **570**, the wagering game machine **560**, or some other device(s), can reconcile any transactions and balances for the multiple accounts so that the wagering game machine **560** can present a single credit meter **508** showing a combined total for all accounts.

The account server **570** can contain account information, and can communicate the account information via the communication network **522**. The account server **570** can communicate with the wagering game machine **560** when the wagering game machine **560** is within range of the casino network. The account server **570** can manage a player's funds; provide auditing capabilities meeting exiting regulations; track player, machine, or portal performance in real time; and perform other operations related to tracking wagering game and player information. A player can add funds to the account at a cage, a kiosk, a computer, or at the wagering game machine **560**, using a variety of funding methods (e.g., deposited cash, redeemed tickets, electronic funds transfers, bonus awards, funds awarded from third-party servers, etc.) The player can allocate some or all of their funds in an account to a game play session. A game play session can be started when a player inserts a player card into the wagering game machine **560** and can end when the player cashes out and removes the player card from the wagering game machine **560**. The tracking of wagering game funds using an account may be referred to herein as an "account-based" funds-tracking mode, or more succinctly, as an "account-based mode".

The system **500** can obtain content from multiple content sources, such as a primary wagering game server ("primary server") **550** and a secondary wagering game server ("secondary server") **580**. In some embodiments, the wagering game machine **560** may track funds in a first funds-tracking mode (e.g., a cash-based mode or ticket-based mode) for a primary game, but receive a request to play a secondary game that utilizes a different funds-tracking mode (e.g., an account-based mode). For instance, a player may be playing a primary wagering game hosted by the primary server **550**. The primary game may be tracking game credits using a cash-based mode, such as a ticket-in-ticket-out (TITO) mode. But, the player may wish to play a secondary game that utilizes an account-based mode to track funds. As a result, the system **500** may prefer to utilize a single funds-tracking mode for both primary and secondary games (e.g., a single account-based mode.) A single funds-tracking mode, such as an account-based mode, can make credit tracking easier, especially when both games share the same credit meter **508**. Therefore, the system **500** can transition the game session from playing in the first funds-tracking

mode (e.g., the cash-based mode), for the primary game, to the second funds-tracking mode (e.g., the account based mode), for both the primary and secondary games. Specifically, when the system detects a request for an account-based secondary game, the system **500** can transfer the funds on the wagering game machine **560** to an account on the account server **570** (although in some embodiments, system **500** may instead cash-out the funds on the wagering game machine **560** for the primary game before transitioning into an account-based mode.) The system **500** can then begin processing the primary and secondary wagering games in the account-based mode, using the account on the account server **570** to track game wagers and credits.

During the game play session, content is displayed in multiple windows. For example, primary content (for a first, or "primary" wagering game), can be displayed in the main window **502**. Secondary content (for a second, or "secondary" wagering game), can be displayed in the side-window **505**. Side-window **506** can track other critical data and meters, like a point meter **513** that tracks points which can be redeemed for rewards on a social, or community, network. The system **500** tracks the account balances between the different games and reconciles the account balance displayed in the credit meter **508** with the account server **570**. The system **500** uses the credit meter **508** at the wagering game machine **560** to display the current balance of the funds allocated to the session. The credit meter **508** at the wagering game machine **560** and the session balance at the account server **570** are synchronized as game play proceeds during the session. In some instances, network latency, end point processing delays, or other factors, may result in instances of time where the session balance on the wagering game machine **560** and the account balance on the account server **570** are not identical. The system **500** can determine the appropriate times to synchronize the balances. For example, the system **500** can ensure that the account balance displayed on the credit meter **508** is the same as the account balance tracked by the account server **570**, at least, at session start and session end. During the game session, however, the system **500** can determine, according to various modes, how often to synchronize the session balance at the wagering game machine **560** and the account server **570**. The different modes of synchronization can offer different advantages. Some modes will now be described.

The system **500** can provide various modes for synchronizing (i.e., reconciling) the credit meter **508** and the account server **570** during the game play session. The following non-exhaustive list enumerates some possible synchronization modes.

Strict Synchronization Mode. In this mode, the system **500** can synchronize the account balance every time the system **500** detects a wager and after the system **500** generates an outcome for that wager. More specifically, the wagering game machine **560** can report a wager and await an acknowledgment message ("acknowledgement") from the system **500** that the wager was received. The acknowledgment includes the new value to be displayed at the credit meter **508**. The system **500** can prevent the game from starting until the system **500** has validated the amount wagered, deducted the wager from the session balance, and sent a new balance to be displayed. Upon receipt of the acknowledgment, the wagering game machine **560** may start the game. If the system **500** cannot validate the wager, however, then the wagering game machine **560** may tilt the game. The wagering game machine **560** bets the wager and determines a game result from that wager. For example, the wagering game machine **560** communicates with the primary or secondary servers **550**, **580**, to obtain a random-number that indicates a game outcome. If the game result is a "win", then the primary or secondary servers **550**, **580** (or the wagering game machine **560**) can generate a win amount. The wagering game machine **560** reports the win amount to the account server **570**. The account server **570** adds any winnings to the session balance and sends an acknowledgment that includes the new balance to be displayed on the credit meter **508**. The wagering game machine **560** can be disabled until the acknowledgment is received. This can keep a player from making a new wager or starting a new game until the account balance is synchronized. Strict Synchronization mode can provide real-time security and synchronization by assuring that the credit meter **508** and the account balance on the account server **570** are consistently synchronized.

Game Ended Mode. This mode is a variation of the Strict Synchronization mode that reconciles the account balances only at the time of the game result, instead of at both the time of the wager and at the time of the game result. More specifically, the wagering game machine **560** reports the results of a wagering game including the total wager and final winnings. The system **500** subtracts the total wager and adds the winnings to the session balance thereby creating a new balance. The acknowledgment provides a new value for the wagering game machine **560** to display in the credit meter **508**. The acknowledgement can also provide authorization that allows the wagering game machine **560** to activate a new game, spin a reel, etc. Thus, in Game Ended mode, the system **500** allows the wagering game machine **560** to initiate game play without needing to explicitly authorize all wagers as they are placed. However, the wagering game machine **560** is prevented from initiating any subsequent game play until a current game play's wagers and winnings are reconciled with the account server **570**. This mode can run more quickly than the Strict Synchronization mode because it eliminates the need to generate wager authorization messages and acknowledgements, while still maintaining synchronization at the per-game level.

Periodic Mode. In this mode, the wagering game machine **560** and system **500** do not operate in lock-step as in Strict Synchronization or Game Ended modes. The system **500** allows the wagering game machine **560** to play games as quickly as possible. The wagering game machine **560** sends game results for each game, but due to network transmission latency and/or host processing delays, a new game may have been started before the system **500** can update the account balance at the account server **570**. At the discretion of the system **500**, the system **500** can periodically lock the wagering game machine **560** and reconcile the account balance. For example, the system **500** can lock the wagering game machine **560** after 10 games have been played, update the session balance, and then unlock the wagering game machine **560** for further game play. If the system **500** determines that there is a discrepancy between the credit meter **508** at the wagering game machine **560** and the session balance at the account server **570**, then the system **500** can lock the wagering game machine **560** until the discrepancy is resolved. In some embodiments, the frequency of reconciling the wagering game machine **560** and account server **570** can be set by an operator or regulator. In addition, the

system **500** can provide a manual reconciliation function so that the operator can request that the session account balance be synchronized on demand. Periodic mode allows a wagering game machine to continuously play games without wager authorization and without reconciling the account balance on a per-game basis. The system **500** may lags a little in updating the wagering account server **570** with wagering information, but the system **500** can be configured to communicate with the account server **570** periodically enough that the account server **570** is not out-of-date for more than a few seconds. This mode represents a reasonable approach when game play is fast or when the casino is particularly busy.

The system **500** can be configured so that a casino operator and/or regulator can choose a mode that balances real-time player performance with operational or regulatory requirements. The system **500** can have a configuration setting that the operator or regulator can set to operate in a desired mode. Depending on the configuration setting, the wagering game machine **560** can operate differently, according to a different set of control rules. For example, one configuration setting may require the wagering game machine **560** to authorizes each wager, another configuration setting may require the wagering game machine **560** to start at most one spin without authorization, while yet another configuration setting may require the wagering game machine to continue to play games until the account server **570** requests reconciliation. For instance, one spin button (e.g., button **512**) on the wagering game machine **560** may trigger a number of spins on primary and secondary games. Hence, the system **500** can be configured, according to one configuration setting (e.g., for Game Ended or Periodic modes), with control rules that can allow the wagering game machine **560** to authorize more than one game wager simultaneously. The system **500** can run all wagering game machines on a network in one mode or it can support wagering game machines running in different modes. For example, some wagering game machines might be configured to run in Strict Synchronization mode while others run in Game Ended or Periodic modes. This allows an operator to tailor the system **500**. The system **500** can also be configured to change modes during a player game session. The system **500** can be configured to switch modes in a way that is transparent to the player.

The system **500** synchronizes account balances for all games played in a single wagering session, even when the content for the games is served by different content sources. The system **500** tracks wagers and balances from primary and secondary games. The system **500** can calculate combined credit totals between primary and secondary games and report the credit totals to the account server **570** as a single atomic transaction. As long as the player is still logged on to the system **500**, the system **500** can add any win amounts to the current session balance and display those amounts in the credit meter **508**. It is also possible, however, for some games to be long-running, which may end after the player has logged off the system **500** before that game's outcome is known. In those cases, the system can still apply any winnings directly to the player's account on the account server **570**. The system **500** can notify the player, in some manner, about the win from the long-running game, such as via text message or email.

Some embodiments for tracking and synchronizing account balances for primary and secondary games include configuring the wagering game machine **560** to control the priority, appearance, and functionality of the game content in all windows. The wagering game machine **560** can hold games in stasis and prevent certain activities, when necessary, to reconcile wager and account balances and to update the credit meter **508**.

The following non-exhaustive list enumerates some possible embodiments for synchronizing account balances for games provided by a plurality of content sources, using variations of the Strict Synchronization mode described further above:

Strict Mode for Combined Primary and Secondary Game Totals. The wagering game machine **560** determines wagers being placed in the main window **502** and the side-window **505**. For example, a primary game and a secondary game may be played at the same time. The example in FIG. **5** illustrates two games being played on the same wagering game machine **560**. A primary game is played in the main window **508** with reels **504** that spin when the spin button **512** is activated. A wager, or bet, is either entered manually or displayed automatically in the bet meter **510**. In the side-window **505**, a secondary game is played, with a reel **511** that also spins when the spin button **512** is activated. The bet meter **515** tracks the wagers for the secondary game. Alternatively, there may be separate spin buttons for both the primary game and the secondary games. The wagering game machine **560** combines all wagers from both games into a single amount and communicates the wager amount to the account server **570**. The wagering game machine **560** can hold the games in stasis until the account server **570** records the wagers amounts, deducts the wager amounts from the account balance, and sends an acknowledgement back to the wagering game machine **560** that the player's funds are sufficient to cover the wager, as well as an updated account balance. The wagering game machine updates the credit meter **508** with the updated account balance. The wagering game machine **560** then permits the primary and secondary games to execute after the wagers have been recorded. Once the spin button **512** has been activated, the wagering game machine **560** can communicate with any one of the primary server **550** and secondary server **580** to obtain game results. The primary and secondary servers **550**, **580** can calculate random numbers, generate game results (e.g., win/loss results), and communicate the game results to the wagering game machine **560** for the primary and secondary games. When game play completes for both the primary and secondary games, or in other words, when a primary game and a secondary game have completed the spins and received game results from their respective servers, the wagering game machine **560** can halt play on the wagering game machine **560** and transmit the total win amount to the account server **570**. The account server **570** updates the account balance and then communicates a credit balance to be displayed on the credit meter **508**. The wagering game machine **560** updates the credit meter **508** to show the credit balance, and then permits game play to continue.

Strict Mode for Combined Primary and Secondary Game Totals for a Secondary Game that Extends Beyond the Game Play Session. This embodiment is similar to the one previously described. However, in this scenario, the secondary game is an extended game that doesn't produce an immediate game result. In other words, the secondary game server purposefully takes a long time to provide a game result because of the nature of the secondary game. An example of such a secondary game

is a "Fish Tank" type of game where a player places a wager on an animated fish lasting the longest time in a tank while not being eaten or caught. Such a game does not provide a result in an acceptable amount of time that warrants suspending game play on the main window **502**, or any other side-window, until the secondary server **580** provides a game result. As a result, the wagering game machine **560** detects that the secondary game is an extended game, and consequently permits the primary game to play while the secondary game waits for a result. Further, the secondary game result may last so long that the player may end his or her game play session (e.g., cash out of the wagering game machine). As a result, when the player is ending his or her game play session, the wagering game machine **560** can communicate the final account balance to the account server **570**. While the player is logged out of the system, the secondary server **580** may calculate a game result. If the game result is a "win", the secondary server **580** can communicate the win amount to the account server **570**. The account server **570** can then update the account balance with the win amount. The system **500** can provide a notification, such as via a cell-phone text message, an email, or some other form of electronic message, which can notify the player of the win amount. The system **500** can also update a player account balance shown on a social network account, or other type of account available to view when the player is not inside the casino network. The social network account can display the account balance when the player logs on.

Strict Mode for Exclusive Primary and Secondary Game Totals. In this embodiment, the wagering game machine **560** does not combine the totals of wagers for primary and secondary games. Instead, the secondary content (e.g., a Flash Application), in combination with the secondary server **580**, determines its wager amounts and game result amounts, then calculates the final game result amount to the wagering game machine **560** to communicate to the account server **570** and/or to update the credit meter **508** displayed on the main window **502**. The secondary content can also intermittently provide information to a primary game if the primary game needs to make a wager, but doesn't know whether the account balance is sufficient to place the wager. The secondary content, for example, can communicate with the account server **570** and determine if, based on the wager amount for the secondary game, the account balance can support a wager being placed by the primary game. If so, then the secondary content can either authorize the primary game to place the wager or hold the primary game in stasis until the secondary game completes its game activity and reports the results to the wagering game machine **560**.

FIG. **6** is a flow diagram **600** illustrating coordinating account-based information for primary and secondary wagering games, according to some embodiments. In FIG. **6**, the flow **600** begins at processing block **602**, where a wagering game system ("system") detects a request for wagering game content from more than one wagering game provider. For example, a wagering game machine may be receiving primary wagering game content from one wagering game provider and presenting the primary wagering game content in a main display, or main window, of the wagering game machine. The wagering game machine can be functioning in a first operating mode for tracking account information. The first operating mode may utilize a first process (e.g., method, procedure, etc.) for tracking financial information on the wagering game machine, such as a cash-based funds tracking process. The wagering game machine can then detect a request to utilize secondary wagering game content from a second provider. The secondary wagering game content, however, may require a second process for tracking financial information, different from the first process, such as an account-based funds-tracking process. Thus, the system can cause the wagering game machine to begin tracking financial information for both the primary and the secondary wagering game content using a second operating mode that utilizes the second funds tracking process.

The flow **600** continues at processing block **604**, where the system activates a multi-provider game accounting mode and presents wagering game content from the multiple content providers. For example, the wagering game machine can shift all financial tracking to an account-based mode. The account based mode can track all transactions, such as wagers and winnings, for both the primary and secondary wagering games. The system can then present the primary and secondary wagering game content in windows, such as in a main window and one or more side-windows on the wagering game machine display. The system can then prompt the wagering game player to enter one or more bets. The system can have different bet meters for the primary and secondary content, or the same bet meter can be used for both primary and secondary content.

The flow **600** continues at processing block **606**, where the system detects wager amounts and a wager activation request for the primary and secondary wagering games. Some controls on the wagering game machine can respond for both primary and secondary wagering game content. For example, a single wager activation control (e.g., a "spin" button) can activate the wagers for both the primary and secondary games.

The flow **600** continues at processing block **608**, where the system detects a total wager amount. The system reports the value of all wagers from the wagering game machine to an account server (or other account tracking device). The total wager amount is the value of wagers from both the primary and secondary wagering games. The system can hold the wagering game machine in stasis until the account server can verify that the account balance can accommodate the total wager amount.

The flow **600** continues at processing block **610**, where the system verifies that the account has sufficient funds to cover the wager amounts. For example, the account server can verify that the wagering account has sufficient funds. If the account does not have sufficient funds, the system can return an error message to the wagering game machine indicating that the account balance is insufficient to transact the requested wagers. The system can then return to processing block **606** to wait for updated wager amounts. If, however, the account balance is sufficient for the total wager amount, the system can deduct the wager amounts from the account server's account balance, and indicate to the wagering game machine to process the wagering games. The flow **600** continues at processing block **612**.

The flow **600** continues at processing block **612**, where the system processes the primary and secondary wagering games and detects wagering game outcomes. Different servers can generate wagering game outcomes. For instance, a primary server can generate an outcome for the primary wagering game and a secondary server can generate an outcome for the secondary wagering game. The wagering game machine itself, however, can also generate a wagering

game outcome for both the primary and wagering games. Further, the wagering game machine can generate a wagering game outcome for one wagering game, while a server generates an outcome for another wagering game. If one of the wagering games is a long standing wagering game that does not produce an immediate outcome, the system can still detect wagering game outcomes for other wagering games (e.g., if the secondary wagering game is a bonus game that takes a while to determine an outcome, the system can proceed with processing the primary wagering game.)

The flow **600** continues at processing block **614**, where the system detects and reports total winnings for primary and secondary wagering games. The system can detect winnings for any one, or both, of the primary and secondary wagering games. The system can then report the winnings to an account server to update the account balance on the account server. The system can utilize one of many techniques for reporting winnings, wagers, etc. Some techniques are described earlier in conjunction with FIG. **5**, such as the Strict Synchronization mode, Game Ended mode, and Periodic mode.

The flow **600** continues at processing block **616**, where the system detects and indicates an updated funds balance. The system can detect the updated account balance from the account server and update a session balance displayed on credit meters on the wagering game machine. In some embodiments, the wagering game machine can indicate the account balance on the wagering game machine separate from the session balance. For example, the system may apply winnings to the account balance, but not to the session balance. The system can restrict wagering game activity (e.g., freeze wagering controls, pause game play, etc.) while the system updates balances. When the system finishes updating the balances, the system can then enable the wagering game activity again (e.g., continue processing wagering games, unfreeze wagering controls, etc.)

Example Wagering Game Machine Architecture

FIG. **7** is a conceptual diagram that illustrates an example of a wagering game machine architecture **700**, according to some embodiments. In FIG. **7**, the wagering game machine architecture **700** includes a wagering game machine **706**, which includes a central processing unit (CPU) **726** connected to main memory **728**. The CPU **726** can include any suitable processor, such as an Intel® Pentium processor, Intel® Core 2 Duo processor, AMD Opteron™ processor, or UltraSPARC processor. The main memory **728** includes a wagering game unit **732**. In one embodiment, the wagering game unit **732** can present wagering games, such as video poker, video black jack, video slots, video lottery, reel slots, etc., in whole or part.

The CPU **726** is also connected to an input/output ("I/O") bus **722**, which can include any suitable bus technologies, such as an AGTL+frontside bus and a PCI backside bus. The I/O bus **722** is connected to a payout mechanism **708**, primary display **710**, secondary display **712**, value input device **714**, player input device **716**, information reader **718**, and storage unit **730**. The player input device **716** can include the value input device **714** to the extent the player input device **716** is used to place wagers. The I/O bus **722** is also connected to an external system interface **724**, which is connected to external systems **704** (e.g., wagering game networks). The external system interface **724** can include logic for exchanging information over wired and wireless networks (e.g., 802.11g transceiver, Bluetooth transceiver, Ethernet transceiver, etc.)

The I/O bus **722** is also connected to a location unit **738**. The location unit **738** can create player information that indicates the wagering game machine's location/movements in a casino. In some embodiments, the location unit **738** includes a global positioning system (GPS) receiver that can determine the wagering game machine's location using GPS satellites. In other embodiments, the location unit **738** can include a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag that can determine the wagering game machine's location using RFID readers positioned throughout a casino. Some embodiments can use GPS receiver and RFID tags in combination, while other embodiments can use other suitable methods for determining the wagering game machine's location. Although not shown in FIG. **7**, in some embodiments, the location unit **738** is not connected to the I/O bus **722**.

In one embodiment, the wagering game machine **706** can include additional peripheral devices and/or more than one of each component shown in FIG. **7**. For example, in one embodiment, the wagering game machine **706** can include multiple external system interfaces **724** and/or multiple CPUs **726**. In one embodiment, any of the components can be integrated or subdivided.

In one embodiment, the wagering game machine **706** includes a content coordination module **737**. The content coordination module **737** can process communications, commands, or other information, where the processing can control wagering transactions for wagering game content that comes from a plurality of different content providers.

Any component of the wagering game machine **706** can include hardware, firmware, and/or machine-readable media including instructions for performing the operations described herein. Furthermore, the wagering game machine **706** can include any of the components described above, such as those described in reference to the wagering game machine **260** of FIG. **2** (or other any of the figures).

Example Mobile Wagering Game Machine

FIG. **8** is a conceptual diagram that illustrates an example of a mobile wagering game machine **800**, according to some embodiments. In FIG. **8**, the mobile wagering game machine **800** includes a housing **802** for containing internal hardware and/or software such as that described above vis-à-vis FIG. **7**. In one embodiment, the housing has a form factor similar to a tablet PC, while other embodiments have different form factors. For example, the mobile wagering game machine **800** can exhibit smaller form factors, similar to those associated with personal digital assistants. In one embodiment, a handle **804** is attached to the housing **802**. Additionally, the housing can store a foldout stand **810**, which can hold the mobile wagering game machine **800** upright or semi-upright on a table or other flat surface.

The mobile wagering game machine **800** includes several input/output devices. In particular, the mobile wagering game machine **800** includes buttons **820**, audio jack **808**, speaker **814**, display **816**, biometric device **806**, wireless transmission devices **812** and **824**, microphone **818**, and card reader **822**. Additionally, the mobile wagering game machine can include tilt, orientation, ambient light, or other environmental sensors.

In one embodiment, the mobile wagering game machine **800** uses the biometric device **806** for authenticating players, whereas it uses the display **816** and speakers **814** for presenting wagering game results and other information (e.g., credits, progressive jackpots, etc.). The mobile wagering game machine **800** can also present audio through the audio jack **808** or through a wireless link such as Bluetooth.

In one embodiment, the wireless communication unit **812** can include infrared wireless communications technology for receiving wagering game content while docked in a wager gaming station. The wireless communication unit **824** can include an 802.11G transceiver for connecting to and exchanging information with wireless access points. The wireless communication unit **824** can include a Bluetooth transceiver for exchanging information with other Bluetooth enabled devices.

In one embodiment, the mobile wagering game machine **800** is constructed from damage resistant materials, such as polymer plastics. Portions of the mobile wagering game machine **800** can be constructed from non-porous plastics which exhibit antimicrobial qualities. Also, the mobile wagering game machine **800** can be liquid resistant for easy cleaning and sanitization.

In some embodiments, the mobile wagering game machine **800** can also include an input/output ("I/O") port **830** for connecting directly to another device, such as to a peripheral device, a secondary mobile machine, etc. Furthermore, any component of the mobile wagering game machine **800** can include hardware, firmware, and/or machine-readable media including instructions for performing the operations described herein.

The described embodiments may be provided as a computer program product, or software, that may include a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which may be used to program a computer system (or other electronic device(s)) to perform a process according to embodiments(s), whether presently described or not, because every conceivable variation is not enumerated herein. A machine readable medium includes any mechanism for storing or transmitting information in a form (e.g., software, processing application) readable by a machine (e.g., a computer). The machine-readable medium may include, but is not limited to, magnetic storage medium (e.g., floppy diskette); optical storage medium (e.g., CD-ROM); magneto-optical storage medium; read only memory (ROM); random access memory (RAM); erasable programmable memory (e.g., EPROM and EEPROM); flash memory; or other types of medium suitable for storing electronic instructions. In addition, embodiments may be embodied in an electrical, optical, acoustical or other form of propagated signal (e.g., carrier waves, infrared signals, digital signals, etc.), or wireline, wireless, or other communications medium.

General

This detailed description refers to specific examples in the drawings and illustrations. These examples are described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice the inventive subject matter. These examples also serve to illustrate how the inventive subject matter can be applied to various purposes or embodiments. Other embodiments are included within the inventive subject matter, as logical, mechanical, electrical, and other changes can be made to the example embodiments described herein. Features of various embodiments described herein, however essential to the example embodiments in which they are incorporated, do not limit the inventive subject matter as a whole, and any reference to the invention, its elements, operation, and application are not limiting as a whole, but serve only to define these example embodiments. This detailed description does not, therefore, limit embodiments, which are defined only by the appended claims. Each of the embodiments described herein are contemplated as falling within the inventive subject matter, which is set forth in the following claims.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method of operating a first electronic gaming controller from a plurality of wagering game controllers included within a wagering game machine, wherein the first electronic gaming controller is independent from a first wagering game, said method comprising:

receiving, by the first electronic gaming controller, a request for placement of a first wager in a first playing round of a second wagering game, wherein the first electronic gaming controller controls the second wagering game, wherein a second electronic gaming controller from the plurality of wagering game controllers controls the first wagering game, wherein the first wagering game and the second wagering game are concurrently presented via a display device of the wagering game machine, wherein the first wagering game includes first content that originates from a first content source, wherein the second wagering game includes second content that originates from a second content source, wherein the wagering game machine includes a value input device configured to receive monetary value to increase a balance of funds in a first credit meter account of the first wagering game, and wherein the first credit meter account is associated with a first credit meter of the wagering game machine;

automatically accessing, by the first electronic gaming controller in response to the request, the funds from the first credit meter account of the first wagering game, wherein the first credit meter account is not accessible to the second wagering game;

automatically debiting a credit from the first credit meter account; and

automatically electronically transmitting the credit from the first credit meter account to a second credit meter account of the second wagering game for placement of the first wager for the first playing round of the second wagering game, wherein the second credit meter account is associated with a second credit meter of the wagering game machine.

2. The method of claim **1** further comprising:

determining that additional funds are won during the first playing round of the second wagering game;

debiting the additional funds from the second credit meter account;

electronically transmitting the additional funds won during the first playing round of the second wagering game to the first credit meter account for the first wagering game before a second playing round is initiated by the second wagering game; and

crediting the additional funds to the first credit meter account.

3. The method of claim **1** further comprising:

detecting one or more win amounts associated with the second wagering game, wherein a first funds source is associated with the first wagering game; and

associating the one or more win amounts with a second funds source separate from the first funds source.

4. The method of claim **1** further comprising:

prior to debiting the credit from the first credit meter account, detecting a request to transact a second wager from the first credit meter account for the first wagering game;

detecting that a monetary balance for the first credit meter account is sufficient to cover a total for the first wager and the second wager; and

debiting the credit from the first credit meter account after detecting that the monetary balance for the first credit meter account is sufficient.

5. The method of claim **1** further comprising, based on a wagering game outcome from the second wagering game, triggering a round of play in the first wagering game.

6. The method of claim **1**, wherein the first content source is internal to the wagering game machine, and wherein the second content source is external to the wagering game machine.

7. The method of claim **1**, wherein the first content source is associated with a first wagering game provider and wherein the second content source is associated with a second wagering game provider different from the first wagering game provider.

8. One or more non-transitory, machine-readable storage devices having instructions stored thereon, which when executed by a set of one or more electronic processors of a gaming system cause the set of one or more electronic processors to perform operations comprising:

accessing, via a network communication interface of the gaming system, a first electronic gaming controller for a first wagering game;

accessing, via the network communication interface, a second electronic gaming controller for a second wagering game, wherein the second electronic gaming controller is independent from the first electronic gaming controller, wherein the first electronic gaming controller controls the first wagering game, wherein the second electronic gaming controller controls the second wagering game, and wherein the first electronic gaming controller and the second electronic gaming controller are included within a wagering game machine;

receiving a request for placement of a first wager in a first playing round of the second wagering game, wherein the first wagering game and the second wagering game are presented concurrently via a display device of the wagering game machine, wherein first content for the first wagering game originates from a first content source, wherein second content for the second wagering game originates from a second content source, wherein the wagering game machine includes a value input device configured to receive monetary value to increase funds for a first credit meter account of the first wagering game, and wherein the first credit meter account is associated with a first credit meter of the wagering game machine;

automatically accessing, via the first electronic gaming controller in response to the request, the funds from the first credit meter account of the first wagering game, wherein the first credit meter account is not accessible to the second wagering game;

automatically debiting a credit from the first credit meter account; and

automatically electronically transmitting the credit from the first credit meter to a second credit meter account of the second wagering game for placement of the first wager for the first playing round of the second wagering game, wherein the second credit meter account is associated with a second credit meter of the wagering game machine.

9. The one or more non-transitory, machine-readable storage devices of claim **8**, said operations further comprising:

determining that at least one additional credit is won during the first playing round of the second wagering game;

debiting the at least one additional credit from the second credit meter account;

electronically transmitting, via the network communication interface, the at least one additional credit to the first electronic gaming controller before a second playing round is initiated by the second wagering game; and

crediting, via the first electronic gaming controller, the at least one additional credit to the first credit meter account.

10. The one or more non-transitory, machine-readable storage devices of claim **8**, said operations further comprising:

detecting one or more win amounts associated with the second wagering game, wherein a first funds store is associated with the first wagering game; and

storing the one or more win amounts in a second funds store separate from the first funds store.

11. The one or more non-transitory, machine-readable storage devices of claim **8**, said operations further comprising:

before debiting the credit from the first credit meter account, detecting a request to transact a second wager from a monetary balance of the first credit meter account, wherein the second wager is for a second playing round of the first wagering game; and

debiting the credit after determining that the monetary balance is sufficient to cover a total for the first wager and the second wager.

12. The one or more non-transitory, machine-readable storage devices of claim **8**, said operations further comprising, based on a betting event from the second wagering game, triggering a round of play in the first wagering game.

13. The one or more non-transitory, machine-readable storage devices of claim **8**, wherein the first content source is internal to the wagering game machine and wherein the second content source is external to the wagering game machine.

14. The one or more non-transitory, machine-readable storage devices of claim **8**, wherein the first content source is associated with a first wagering game provider and wherein the second content source is associated with a second wagering game provider different from the first wagering game provider.

15. A wagering game machine comprising:

one or more electronic gaming controllers;

a network communication interface;

a value input device configured to receive monetary value for placement in a first credit meter account of a first wagering game; and

one or more memory storage devices configured to store instructions, which when executed by at least one of the one or more electronic gaming controllers, cause the wagering game machine to perform operations to receive, via a first electronic gaming controller from the one or more electronic gaming controllers, a request for placement of a first wager in a first playing round of a second wagering game independent from the first wagering game, wherein the first wagering game and the second wagering game are concurrently presented via a display device of the wagering game machine, wherein first content for the first wagering game origi-

nates from a first content source, wherein second content for the second wagering game originates from a second content source, wherein the first electronic gaming controller controls the second wagering game, wherein a second electronic gaming controller of the one or more electronic gaming controllers controls the first wagering game, and wherein the first credit meter account is associated with a first credit meter of the wagering game machine,

automatically access, in response to the request, funds from the first credit meter account of the first wagering game, wherein the first credit meter account is not accessible to the second wagering game,

automatically debit a credit from the first credit meter account, and

automatically electronically transmit the credit from the first credit meter account to a second credit meter account of the second wagering game for placement of the first wager for the first playing round, wherein the second credit meter account is associated with a second credit meter of the wagering game machine.

16. The wagering game machine of claim **15**, wherein the one or more memory storage devices are configured to store instructions, which when executed by at least one of the one or more electronic gaming controllers, cause the wagering game machine to further perform operations to:

determine that additional funds are won during the first playing round of the second wagering game; and

return the additional funds won during the first playing round of the second wagering game to the first wagering game.

17. The wagering game machine of claim **15**, wherein the one or more memory storage devices are configured to store instructions, which when executed by at least one of the one or more electronic gaming controllers, cause the wagering game machine to further perform operations to:

detect one or more win amounts associated with the second wagering game, wherein a first funds source is associated with the first wagering game; and

associate the one or more win amounts in a second funds source separate from the first funds source.

18. The wagering game machine of claim **15**, wherein the one or more memory storage devices are configured to store instructions, which when executed by at least one of the one or more electronic gaming controllers, cause the wagering game machine to further perform operations to:

prior to using the at least the portion of the accessed funds associated with the first wagering game, detect a request to transact a first wager from a monetary balance for the first wagering game;

detect a request to transact a second wager for the second wagering game; and

detect that the monetary balance is sufficient to cover a total for the first wager from the monetary balance for the first wagering game and the second wager for the second wagering game.

19. The wagering game machine of claim **15**, wherein the one or more memory storage devices are configured to store instructions, which when executed by at least one of the one or more electronic gaming controllers, cause the wagering game machine to further perform operations to, based on an betting event from the second wagering game, trigger a round of play in the first wagering game.

20. The wagering game machine of claim **15**, wherein the first content source is internal to the wagering game machine, and wherein the second content source is external to the wagering game machine.

21. The wagering game machine of claim **15**, wherein the first content source is associated with a first wagering game provider and wherein the second content source is associated with a second wagering game provider different from the first wagering game provider.

22. A method of operating a wagering game system, said method comprising:

acquiring, a via one or more electronic gaming controllers of the wagering game system, first wagering game content and second wagering game content, wherein the first wagering game content originates from a first content source and the second wagering game content originates from a second content source;

presenting, by a first electronic gaming controller of the one or more electronic gaming controllers based on the first wagering game content, a first wagering game in a first area of a display device of the wagering game system, wherein the first wagering game has a first credit meter balance indicated by a first credit meter of the wagering game system, and wherein the wagering game system includes a value input device configured to receive monetary value to increase the first credit meter balance of the first wagering game;

presenting, by a second electronic gaming controller of the one or more electronic gaming controllers based on the second wagering game content, a second wagering game in a second area on the display device of the wagering game system, wherein the second wagering game content is presented concurrently with the first wagering game content via the display device, wherein the second wagering game has a second credit meter balance associated with a second credit meter of the wagering game system, and wherein the first credit meter balance for the first wagering game is not accessible to the second wagering game;

detecting a request to place a wager in the second wagering game on a first playing round of the second wagering game;

automatically accessing, in response to the request, funds from the first credit meter balance, wherein the first credit meter balance is not accessible to the second wagering game;

automatically debiting, in response to the request, a first credit from the first credit meter balance; and

automatically electronically transferring, via at least one of the one or processors, the first credit to the second credit meter balance for placement of the wager.

23. The method of claim **22** further comprising:

detecting that a second credit is awarded for the first playing round of the second wagering game; and

before a second playing round of the second wagering game is played, crediting the second credit to the first credit meter.

24. The method of claim **22**, wherein the electronically transferring the first credit from the first credit meter balance to the second credit meter balance comprises debiting funds from the first credit meter balance to fund an account associated with the second credit meter, and wherein the method further comprises debiting funds from the account to play the second wagering game.

25. The method of claim **24** further comprising:

receiving a credit as a reward for play of the second wagering game; and

adding the credit to the account.

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